

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1922

Introduced by Assembly Member Davis

February 16, 2010

An act to add Section 51204.8 to, and to add Chapter 3.9 (commencing with Section 8680) to Part 6 of Division 1 of Title 1 of, the Education Code, relating to civil rights education.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1922, as introduced, Davis. Civil rights education: California Civil Rights Education Commission.

Existing law establishes the system of public elementary and secondary schools in this state. Existing law establishes courses of study to be pursued by elementary and secondary school pupils. The State Department of Education is required to incorporate, into publications that provide examples of curriculum resources for teacher use, those materials that are age-appropriate and consistent with subject frameworks on history and social science that deal with civil rights, human rights violations, genocide, slavery, and the Holocaust.

This bill would establish the 15-member California Civil Rights Commission in state government. The bill would require the commission to provide information and coordination and facilitation services with respect to courses and programs that relate to the civil rights movement, and to provide assistance to education officials and community organizations. The bill would specify the procedure for the appointment of the members of the commission. The bill would provide that members of the commission would receive no compensation for their services, but would be reimbursed for the expenses they incur while performing their duties. The commission would be authorized to hire employees

and enter into contracts for goods and services. The commission would also be authorized to apply for, and receive, gifts and grants from public and private sources.

The bill would require the State Board of Education to make civil rights education a mandatory part of instruction in the public elementary and secondary schools, and to work with the California Civil Rights Commission in implementing prescribed guidelines.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares both of the
2 following:

3 (a) Understanding the important role of the Civil Rights
4 Movement in the lives of African Americans and all other
5 Americans, and understanding the importance of teaching
6 California's children all of our history, it is the goal of the
7 Legislature to provide meaningful support to this most important
8 endeavor.

9 (b) California's role in the struggle for civil rights also needs
10 to be formalized and taught as a beacon of hope for all Californians.

11 SEC. 2. Chapter 3.9 (commencing with Section 8680) is added
12 to Part 6 of Division 1 of Title 1 of the Education Code, to read:

13
14 CHAPTER 3.9. CALIFORNIA CIVIL RIGHTS EDUCATION
15 COMMISSION
16

17 8680. (a) The California Civil Rights Education Commission
18 is hereby established in state government. The commission shall
19 be assigned to the office of the Secretary of State for administrative
20 purposes only.

21 (b) The commission shall provide, or assist education officials
22 and community organizations with providing, information and
23 coordination and facilitation services, with respect to courses or
24 programs that relate to the civil rights movement. In completing
25 these tasks, the commission may act as a liaison with various
26 entities, including, but not necessarily limited to, the United States
27 Congress, the California Legislature, the National Association for

1 the Advancement of Colored People, as well as other national and
2 international agencies.

3 8681. (a) (1) The commission shall consist of 15 members,
4 11 of whom shall serve terms, commencing and ending on July 1
5 of the appropriate years, on a rotating basis. Of the 11 initial
6 members of the commission who serve terms, three shall serve
7 terms ending on July 1, 2012, four shall serve terms ending on
8 July 1, 2013, and four shall serve terms ending on July 1, 2014.
9 Members of the commission appointed to succeed the members
10 referenced above, other than those appointed to fill the unexpired
11 portion of a term, shall all serve three-year terms. No member may
12 serve more than two terms.

13 (2) The 11 members serving terms shall be chosen from
14 applicants who apply to a four-member joint committee consisting
15 of representatives of the California State Conference of the National
16 Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the University
17 of California, the California State University, and the California
18 Community Colleges. The joint committee shall make its initial
19 11 appointments by July 1, 2011. The members of the joint
20 committee shall also be members of the commission.

21 (3) The members of the joint committee shall be appointed as
22 follows:

23 (A) The representative of the California State Conference of
24 the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People
25 shall be appointed by the Superintendent of Public Instruction from
26 a list of up to two names submitted by the conference to the
27 Superintendent of Public Instruction.

28 (B) The representative of the University of California shall be
29 appointed by the President of the University of California.

30 (C) The representative of the California State University shall
31 be appointed by the Chancellor of the California State University.

32 (D) The representative of the California Community Colleges
33 shall be appointed by the Chancellor of the California Community
34 Colleges.

35 (b) The members of the commission shall be California
36 residents, and shall be appointed with due regard for broad
37 geographic representation.

38 (c) The commission shall have a chairperson, who shall be
39 designated from the membership of the commission by the

1 Superintendent of Public Instruction to serve in that capacity for
2 the remainder of his or her term.

3 (d) Eight members of the commission shall constitute a quorum
4 for the transaction of the business of the commission. Members
5 of the commission shall receive no compensation for the
6 performance of their duties, but shall be reimbursed for the
7 expenses they incur in performing these duties.

8 (e) The commission shall adopt rules and regulations, and set
9 standards and policies, for the organization, operation,
10 management, budgeting, and programs of the commission. The
11 commission is authorized to hire employees and enter into contracts
12 for goods and services.

13 8682. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the
14 commission may apply for, and receive, gifts, grants, and donations
15 from any public or private sources, including, but not necessarily
16 limited to, federal funds and private foundation grants.

17 SEC. 3. Section 51204.8 is added to the Education Code, to
18 read:

19 51204.8. The state board shall make civil rights education a
20 mandatory part of the curriculum in public elementary and
21 secondary schools. The state board shall work with the California
22 Civil Rights Education Commission established pursuant to
23 Chapter 3.9 (commencing with Section 8680) of Part 6 of Division
24 1 of Title 1 in implementing all of the following guidelines:

25 (a) Providing assistance and advice to public elementary and
26 secondary schools with respect to civil rights movement education
27 and awareness programs.

28 (b) Surveying and cataloging the extent to which civil rights
29 education exists in statewide curricula.

30 (c) Creating an inventory of civil rights memorials, exhibits,
31 and resources that could be used in classrooms and for other
32 educational programs.

33 (d) Compiling a list of volunteers who are willing to share their
34 knowledge and experiences concerning the struggle for civil rights.

35 (e) Preparing reports for the Governor and the Legislature on
36 the inclusion of civil rights studies into the educational systems
37 of the state.